

Albert P. MacDonald House
1307-09 9th Street
First Ward Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5802

HABS
PA,
7-ALTO,
28-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
ALBERT P. MACDONALD HOUSE

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Location: 1307-09 9th Street

Date of Erection: 1884

Description: This large brick house has a cross-gable roof covered with patterned slate. A three-story square tower rises above the two-story house. The building features a wraparound porch and projecting bays, including one with a pyramidal slate-covered roof extending up to the bargeboard in the gable peak.

History: This brick house, located prominently on a corner site, was constructed for a businessman. Albert P. MacDonald, an insurance agent, built this house in 1884, apparently to replace the house owned by Robert H. McCormick. McCormick's estate sold the lot, measuring 99' on Lexington and 50' on 9th Street, to MacDonald in 1884 for \$6,000--then a considerable sum. By 1893, MacDonald was postmaster, but two years later he died at age 47. During MacDonald's occupancy, the address of the house was 903 Lexington Ave.

MacDonald's widow, Alice, sold the house in 1899 to Sarah J. Rice for \$7,000; Rice sold it months later to Horace S. Prutzman. Prutzman sold "wholesale carpets, oil cloths, wood and willow ware, house furnishing goods, granite and tinware, etc." from his store at 9th Street and Green Avenue. Prutzman probably added the sweeping porch to this house, which was not indicated on the 1894 map. In the 1920s, the garage was added in the basement, on 9th Street. The Prutzman family owned it until 1946.

Sources: Maps: 1882, 1894, 1909, 1932. City directories. Tax assessment records. Deed books: 53/464, 119/598, 121/1, 125/466, 125/468, 125/470, 527/343.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of the first ward neighborhood (HABS No. PA-5788) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by HABS Senior Historian Alison K. Hoagland, project leader and editor, in the summer of 1989. Hoagland's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.